

Proposed Strategic Program Planning Process

A strategic program plan will be developed to guide the ongoing operations of the Conservancy over the next 3 to 5 years. The Strategic Plan, required under Public Resources Code section 33345, will be developed in consultation with various governmental and non-governmental stakeholders through an open, public process. The plan should be completed so that the Board may consider action by no later than July of 2006. Once the Strategic Plan is adopted, annual plans consistent with the Strategic Plan and available resources available can be developed for each fiscal year.

In development of the various strategies and actions necessary to carry out the mission of the conservancy, the following guiding principles, set forth in the Legislature, should be met:

- (1) Support efforts that advance both environmental preservation and the economic well-being of Sierra residents in a complementary manner.
- (2) Work in collaboration and cooperation with local governments and interested parties in carrying out the Conservancy's mission.
- (3) Make every effort to ensure that, over time, conservancy funding and other efforts are spread equitably across each of the various sub-regions and among the stated goal areas, with adequate allowance for the variability of costs associated with individual regions and types of projects.

The Strategic Plan will provide strategies and actions to accomplish each of the following seven objectives:

- (1) Provide increased opportunities for tourism and recreation.
- (2) Protect, conserve, and restore the region's physical, cultural, archaeological, historical, and living resources.
- (3) Aid in the preservation of working landscapes.
- (4) Reduce the risk of natural disasters, such as wildfires.
- (5) Protect and improve water and air quality.
- (6) Assist the regional economy through the operation of the conservancy's program.
- (7) Undertake efforts to enhance public use and enjoyment of lands owned by the public.

The substantial public input received through the six public workshops held earlier this year will provide the foundation for development of the initial draft of the plan. The strategic plan will provide specific strategies and actions necessary to achieve measurable progress in each of the areas described above, including the identification of the highest priority projects and initiatives for which funding is needed. Performance measurements shall be established for each program area.

The Conservancy will engage the services of a strategic planning consultant to coordinate the planning process, with a preference for businesses with experience in Sierra Nevada issues and region. The Conservancy will seek assistance from local, state and federal agencies in the development of the strategic plan.

Following the release by the Board of a "preliminary draft," a series of public workshops will be held throughout the region to allow the public an opportunity to provide input into the proposed plan. In addition, comments will be solicited through the Conservancy website. Progress reports will be given at each Board meeting.